

Massachusetts Forest Fire Control and Forestry Hazard Fuels Management



DCR

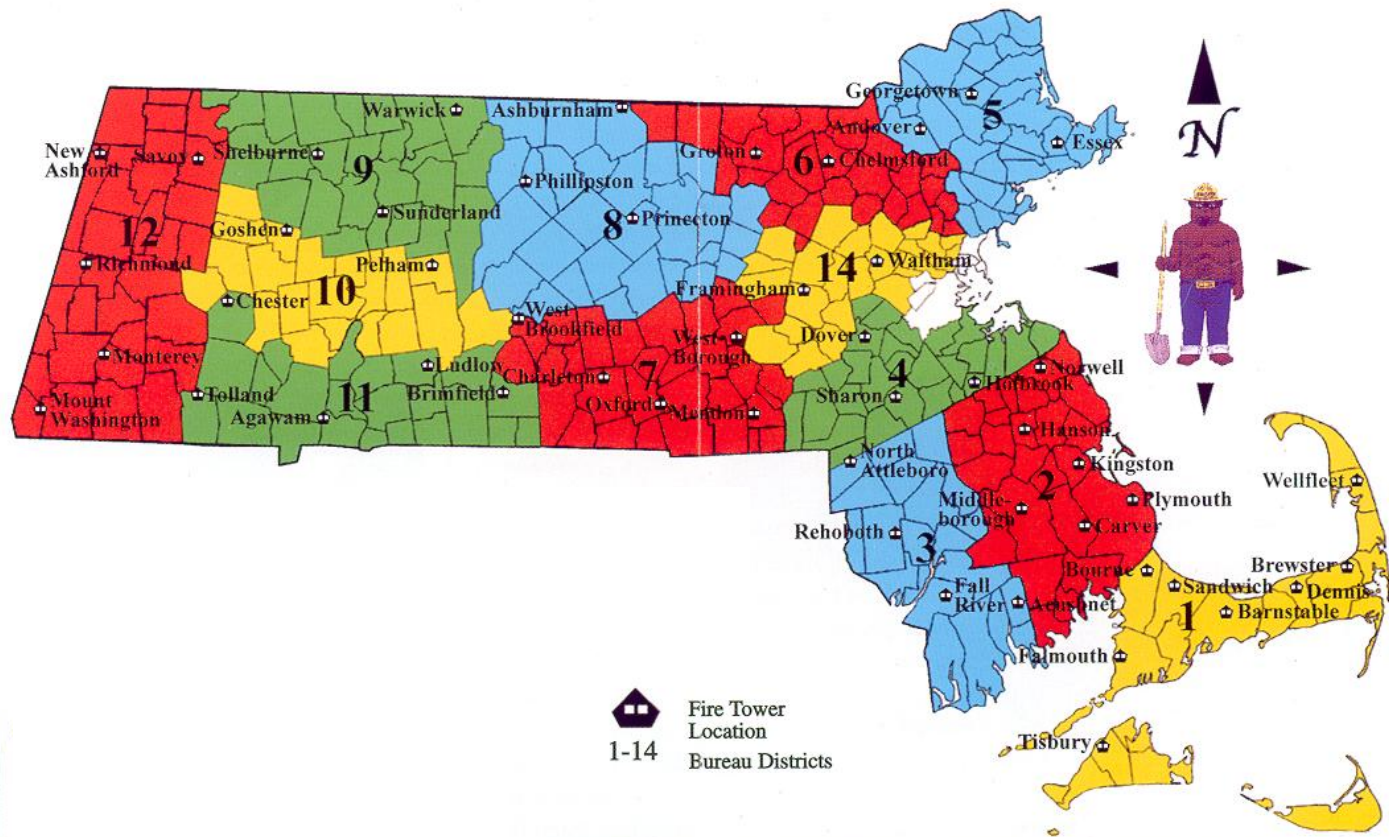
Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry

Forest Fire Control Responsibilities

Providing aid and assistance in the prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires to cities and towns since 1911.

Massachusetts Bureau of Forest Fire Control

Massachusetts Bureau of Forest Fire Control Districts and Tower Network



Bureau of Forest Fire Control Staffing

- **14 District Fire Wardens**
- **3 District Patrolmen**
- **48 Seasonals April through September**
- **1 Prevention Coordinator**

Bureau of Forest Fire Control Services

- **State Wildfire Occurrence Reporting**
- **Fire Detection / Fire Tower Network**
- **Specialized Resource Response**
- **MEMA State Resource**
- **Federal Excess Property Program/VFA**
- **Wildfire Crew / National Mobilization**
- **Wildfire Training**
- **Fire Danger Rating / Fire Weather Intel**



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP



U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Caring for the land and serving people

United States Department of Agriculture



National and Regional Partners



- Regional Forest Fire Response
- Compact Fire Science Working Team
- Wildland Fire Training
- Information Sharing and Coordination



Brief Fire History of Massachusetts

1887: Bourne, 25,000 acres

1927: Townsend State Forest into NH, 16,000 acres.

1927: Erving to Wendell, 7,000 acres

1927: Montague Plains Fire Destroys Village of Lake Pleasant

1923: Bourne, 25,000 acres, 7 days

1937: Bourne, 300 acres, 2 firefighters killed

1937: Hyannis, 2000 acres

1941: Marshfield, 550 buildings destroyed

*1957: Plymouth, 15,000 acres, 3000 fought fire, which had a
35 mile perimeter*

1963: Plymouth, 530 acres

1964: Plymouth, 5500 acres, destroyed 26 buildings

1966: Plymouth/Wareham 535 acres

1995: Russell, 1100 acres, Mt. Tekoa

2000: South Hadley, 310 acres, 14 days, Lithia Springs

2000: Erving, 140 acres, 7 days, Hermit Mountain

2001: Ware, 400 acres

2010: Russell, 320 acres, Mt. Tekoa

Wildfire crosses route 6 in Sandwich, during a large fire in May of 1965



**Cambridge /
Boston Line
2009**

**7 Acres – Human
Caused**



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

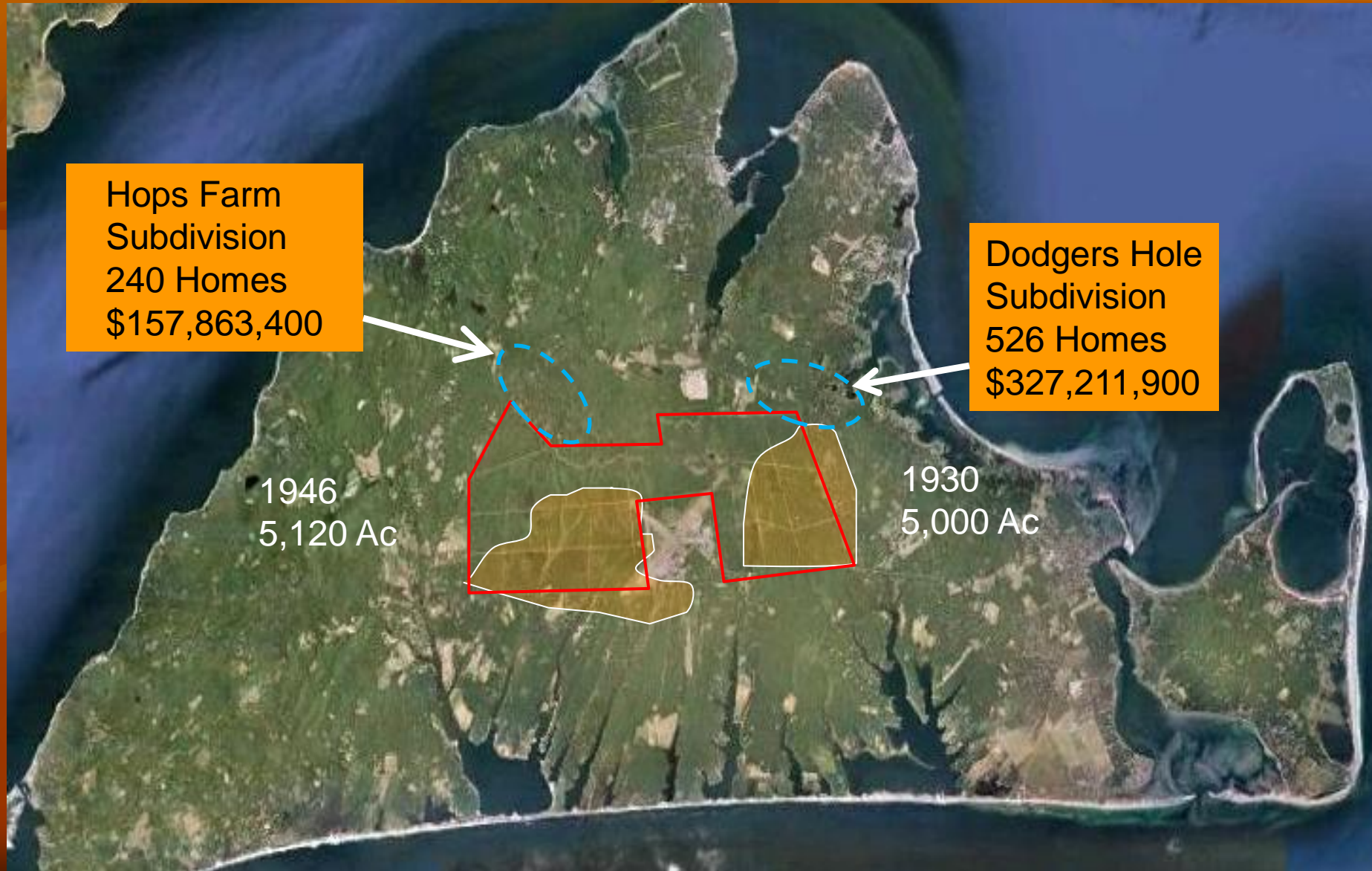
Southeast Mass Hazardous Fuels Mitigation and Ecosystem Restoration Project

- **DCR Awarded \$ 1.974 Million grant for project**
- **Duration of Project: July 2009 – November 2011**
- **Partnership with The Nature Conservancy**

Project Deliverables

- **Wildland Fire Training for Southeast – 150 FF's**
- **Prescribed Fire Plans DCR and Partnership Lands
1,800 acres**
- **Provide 6 Firewise Community Programs**
- **7 Community Wildfire Protection Plans**
- **Provide 20 Fire Prevention Programs**
- **400 Acres of Prescribed Fire Treatment – State**
- **200 Acres of Prescribed Fire Treatment - Partners**
- **600 Acres of Mechanical Fuels Treatment- State**

Vineyard Fire History



Plymouth Mast Road Subdivision



Jul 1, 2007

251 Homes
\$96,755,741

Google

Community Wildfire Protection Plans / Firewise Programs

- 6 CWPP's
 - Landowners
 - Town Officials
 - Fire Departments
 - Stakeholders





Fire Behavior Potential

Fall Burn Martha's Vineyard



Photo by Bob Bale

www.firenews.org

DCR Forest Fire Control

Hazard Fuels Management 2010

MSSF Objectives:

- Hazard Fuels Reduction
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Fire Training



Hazard Fuels Reduction

- Exclusion of fire from the environment vegetation/fuels have reached very high to extreme levels.
- Realizing the importance and need for fuel reduction, DCR has taken a proactive approach to this very important issue.
- Prescribed fire, mechanized mowing , and removal of dead and dying vegetation are just a few methods DCR has used to mitigate this problem.

Before Fire Treatment



After Fire Treatment



Fire Training

- DCR and local Fire Departments utilize Prescribed Burns for valuable fire training.
 - Fire Behavior
 - Tactics
 - Equipment
-
- *“95% of my firefighters have never seen the potential fire behavior out of this forest”.*

Plymouth Fire Chief

2009



Fire Training



**CL 415
Martha's
Vineyard**





Mechanical Fuels Treatment

Product From
Mechanical Treatment



- Firefighter Safety
- Structure Protection
- Habitat Restoration

MSSF Fuels Treatment Burn Plan

- Location and sketch map
- Purpose and objectives
- Description of the stand, fuels, and topography
- Optimum weather and fuel conditions
- Smoke management information
- Contacts
- Preparation required
- Firing techniques
- Patrol, mop up, and escaped fire procedures
- Special precautions
- Medical & emergency procedures
- Evaluation information

Smoke Management

- DCR Forest Fire Control Personnel are highly trained in Smoke Management techniques to minimize the impact smoke on surrounding Communities
- Each prescribed fire will have a stringent Smoke Management Plan that will be adhered to throughout the burning process.
- DCR uses computer smoke modeling, observation towers and roving smoke monitors to advise of any negative smoke impacts
- In the event of any negative impact from poor smoke dispersion, the prescribed burn will be terminated immediately



Example of good atmospheric smoke dispersion

Meeting Prescribed Fire Objectives Using Partnerships

- **Resource needs often require assistance from partnering agencies.**

Partnering agencies assisting DCR:

The Nature Conservancy

Mass Military Reservation

Mass Division of Fish and Wildlife

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Municipal Fire Departments

NPS Cape Cod National Seashore

Trustees of Reservation

MCSF Fuels Treatment 2011



NECC Daily Situation Report			
PRESCRIBED FIRE TOTALS			
Thursday October 22, 2015			
Reporting Unit	Last Update	YTD RX Fire	YTD RX Acres
CT-CTS	10/16/15	4	24.5
MA-CCP	10/22/15	27	73.1
MA-MAS	10/12/15	23	976.0
ME-ACP	10/20/15	8	118.0
ME-MES	10/20/15	11	63.7
NB	9/9/15	0	0.0
NH-NHS	8/12/15	1	5.0
NH-WMF	10/8/15	2	32.0
NL	9/15/15	0	0.0
NS	9/16/15	0	0.0
NY-NYS	5/14/15	8	195.1
PA-DWP	10/15/15	9	494.0
QC	9/16/15	0	0.0
RI-RIS	1/1/15	0	0.0
USBIA-ER		0	0.0
USFWS-R5	5/5/15	4	26.9
VT-GMF	6/11/15	8	470.0
VT-VTS	6/16/15	3	78.0
Totals		108	2556.3

Questions and Answers